

## 20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 45 (November 1-7, 2015)

Praise cannot become a natural part of our worship experience until we learn to **trust** God in everything. This week, we will continue to explore God's promises as we study Psalm 92.

**Sunday**, November 1 (read Psalm 92:1-3)

*It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your Name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night . . . (Psalm 92:1-2)*

I highly recommend the early morning hours, if possible, for your main devotions and prayer time. For one thing, early morning **praise** drives out the natural worries of the day ahead. Everything that you entrust into God's hands is one less thing you have to worry about. The printed verses above teach me what I have already experienced in my prayer life, namely, that I tend to pray **forward** in my morning prayers and **backward** at night. Both are worthy prayers since it would be disrespectful to ask for His **love** and blessings in the morning but not take the time to thank Him for His **faithfulness** at night. Recently, God has given me a new application for this passage in the twilight of my life on earth. In the **morning**, during my youth, I knew about and experienced God's **love**, but now, in the **evening** of my earthly journey, I want to proclaim His **faithfulness**. As a result, the music I sing takes on new meaning (v. 3) because, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him for that day" (2 Timothy 1:12b).

**Monday**, November 2 (read Psalm 92:4-7)

*For You make me glad by Your deeds, O Lord; I sing for joy at the works of Your hands. (Psalm 92:4)*

At the twilight of my life, I am experiencing **gladness** and **joy** in what the Lord has **already** done, the works of His hands. He died on the painful cross to give us the gift of eternal life. If He did nothing else for us, shouldn't that be enough to cause us to praise Him? But He has given us so much more for which He deserves praise! Physically, I have lost a lot of energy because of neuropathy, but recently, God has given me some renewed strength (see Isaiah 40:28-31). This morning, He reminded me that, "the joy of the Lord is (my) strength" (Nehemiah 8:10). Have you lost energy and strength by worrying about situations that God wants you to entrust to Him? Has He ever failed to supply your needs in all your days on earth (see Philippians 4:19)? Can you trust Him to finish what He has begun (see Philippians 1:6)?

**Tuesday**, November 3 (reread Psalm 92:4-7)

*How great are Your works, O Lord, how profound Your thoughts! (Psalm 92:5)*

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9). How much time have **you** wasted worrying about things too large for your finite mind to grasp? Questions such as, "How will God deal with those who have never heard the gospel?" or "What are we going to do with the millions of immigrants seeking asylum in Europe?" A God small enough for you to explain would never be large enough for you to worship! Job spent far too much time complaining to the Lord about his suffering before God spoke to him from the storm to ask, "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation?" (Job 38:4a) Job finally admitted, "Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know" (Job 42:3b). Are you failing to experience joy in the Lord because there are many things you do not comprehend? Praise Him for what you currently understand, and He will reveal little by little the truths that are hidden from your mind (see Deuteronomy 29:29).

**Wednesday**, November 4 (reread Psalm 92:4-7)

*The senseless man does not know, fools do not understand, that though the wicked spring up like grass and all evildoers flourish, they will be forever destroyed. (Psalm 92:6-7)*

One more useless question we ask is, “Why do the wicked flourish?” Most of Psalm 37 is given to address this subject, but in the midst of it God says, “the Lord **laughs** at the wicked, for He knows their day is coming” (Psalm 37:13, emphasis mine). Today’s text reminds us that Satan is the prince of this world (see John 14:30), so you can reason that those who live for him will prosper for a season. All their possessions and all their accomplishments are worldly, however, so they will perish with them when God calls them to account. The “senseless man” and the “fool” never figure this out! They spend all their time on earth accumulating more “stuff” while denying the God who created the universe. Determine today that you will view the world from a Biblical worldview. Then you will see more clearly what God is doing in our fallen society!

**Thursday**, November 5 (read Psalm 92:8-11)

*But You, O Lord, are exalted forever. (Psalm 92:8)*

Having established the fact that evil men will flourish for a season before being destroyed, the psalmist turns his attention to exalting the Lord (v. 8). The word, exalt, is defined as “making high in rank, honor, power and character.” It means to praise, honor and glorify. This is what it means to **worship** the Lord! God will destroy His enemies (v. 9), but our power (horn) and authority will be established as the Holy Spirit (pictured here by fine oils) gains control. If we never **see** the defeat of our enemies or **hear** of their rout (v. 11) on this side of eternity, we will certainly experience this joy in the earthly kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ! Hold on my friend! Joy comes in the morning! (See Psalm 30:5)

**Friday**, November 6 (read Psalm 92:12-15)

*The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. (Psalm 92:12-13)*

I have read the back of the Book, so I know who emerges victorious in the end! Worldly people will prosper under the leadership of the prince of this world (Satan) until the Lord of all the earth pronounces judgment on them (v. 6-11). God will then elevate His own followers into positions of leadership and they will “flourish like a palm tree” (v. 12). The temple will be rebuilt, and God’s people will be “planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God” (v. 13). Knowing how it ends, doesn’t it make you more joyous and at peace as the Bible is fulfilled before your eyes? That is exactly what this week’s devotions are written to accomplish. You have not yet reached your final destination! What you see with your eyes and hear with your ears is not the final story! God is in total control! Learn to trust Him fully while you live in peace in this troubled world.

**Saturday**, November 7 (reread Psalm 92:12-15)

*They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, “The Lord is upright; He is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in Him.” (Psalm 92:14-15).*

Today is the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday of my oldest grandchild, Sydney. That means that I’m not a spring chicken anymore! God’s promise in this text is not only powerful, but I can testify that I am experiencing it daily. The Lord is showing me new truths on a daily basis; therefore, **new fruit** is still forming on this **old branch** (see John 15:5). I never want to stand before my listeners with a warmed-over message. It often comes from a much-used text, but the meaning is new and relevant. In that way, I can “stay fresh and green, proclaiming, “The Lord is upright; He is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in Him” (v. 14-15). How about you? Are you still seeking to understand new life-changing truths? God is not finished with you yet. Commit 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 to memory and live by this wonderful truth!